

The Shinano Mainichi Shimbun

657 Minami-agata-machi
Nagano City, Japan
TEL 026-236-3000
FAX 026-236-3098

©The Shinano Mainichi Shimbun Inc.



1998 Nagano Olympic Winter Games Day 14

Tchepalova triumphs in 30km freestyle Russian women sweep cross country races



Stefania Belmondo silver at 30-km cross country

Julija Tchepalova edged past Italian race favorite Stefania Belmondo in the women's 30-kilometer freestyle race Friday as the Russian women swept all five gold medals in cross country skiing contested at the Nagano Olympics.

The 21-year-old Tchepalova, dubbed "the future" of Russian cross country skiing, finished in 1 hour, 22 minutes, 1.5 seconds on the Snow Harp course in a grueling race that was slowed by heavy rain.

Belmondo won the silver medal 10.2 seconds behind Tchepalova while Russia's Larissa Lazutina got the bronze 1:14.2 back for her fifth medal of the Nagano Games.

Elena Vaelbe, another Russian who has won every major title except an Olympic individual gold, saw her dreams thwarted yet again as she finished fifth in 1:24:52.8.

Belmondo, a specialist in the freestyle technique, held the pace through 22 kilometers of the race, but began to slow down in the final four kilometers.

It was Belmondo's seventh career Olympic medal and second in the Nagano Games but she still shook her head in disappointment after the race. (Kyodo News)

This paper can also be seen on Shinano Mainichi Shimbun web.
URL <http://www.shinmai.co.jp/olympic/>

Cellular & Paging Services.

NTT DoCoMo

Share our excitement in NAGANO with the world!

NTT DoCoMo Nagano Branch URL <http://www.nagano.nttdocomo.co.jp/>



Official Cellular & Paging Services.

DoCoMo, as a member of NTT group, supports the Nagano Olympic Games.